

VZCZCXRO2096
RR RUEH DU RUEHMR RUEHRN
DE RUEHSA #3651 2901532
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 171532Z OCT 07
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2303
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE
RUEHXR/RWANDA COLLECTIVE
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 0496
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 003651

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR AF/C FOR M. SEIDENSTRICKER, AF/S R. MARBURG
BUJUMBURA FOR M. GARRETT

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/16/2017

TAGS: [PREL BY SF](#)

SUBJECT: SAG PRESSURES FNL TO PARTICIPATE IN JVMM

REF: A. TRENKLE-GARRETT EMAIL OF 10/16/2007

[1](#)B. PRETORIA 2727

Classified By: Acting Political Counselor Catherine Kay. Reasons 1.4(b)
) and (d).

[1](#)1. (U) The Burundi Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JVMM) will meet on Saturday, October 20, in Bujumbura, announced South African Minister for Safety and Security and Regional Facilitator for the Burundi Peace Process Charles Nqakula. The JVMM is the key vehicle for implementing the September 2006 Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement between the Paliphehutu-FNL and Government of Burundi. Speaking at a Pretoria press conference on October 15, Nqakula urged the Paliphehutu-FNL, which had pulled out of the JVMM in July 2007, to attend the upcoming meeting. Nearly 1,500 FNL fighters have "defected" from the rebel movement, Nqakula claimed. The African Union mission in Burundi -- which consists almost exclusively of South African troops -- will establish assembly areas for these fighters. Nqakula also stated that the region is considering holding a summit on the Burundi peace process and that the FNL would be invited. (Full transcript of Nqakula's remarks at www.dfa.gov.za/docs/speeches/2007/nqak1016.ht m.)

[1](#)2. (C) Jan van Eck, analyst for the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) and informal advisor to the FNL, told PolOff October 17 that the FNL will not attend the JVMM meeting because its two key conditions have not been met:

-- the FNL must discuss their security with the South African "protectors," particularly since they fled Bujumbura in July because they felt the South African troops threatened their security; and

-- the FNL formally rejected the South African mediation, and must resolve this issue before reengaging in the peace process.

Speaking by telephone from Dar es Salaam where he was meeting with the FNL leadership, van Eck said that Nqakula's public announcement of the JVMM meeting was "unfortunate" and hardened the FNL position. They do not want to be "bullied" into resuming their participation in the peace process. He said that distrust between the South Africans and FNL run high, although he noted that the FNL is more open to dialogue with Nqakula compared to SAG Great Lakes Envoy Kingsley Mamabolo, whom they do not trust. Van Eck noted that one member of the SAG facilitation team (NFI) is in Dar es Salaam and met with the FNL leadership October 17.

¶3. (C) Prior to Nqakula's announcement, van Eck had been encouraging FNL leader Rwasu to meet with Nqakula and Tanzanian President Kikwete in Dar es Salaam to hash out the key issues and lay the groundwork for the JVMM meeting. Van Eck believes that Rwasu would accept to meet with Nqakula, as long as Kikwete was the host. Nqakula's press conference announcing the October 20 JVMM meeting undermined this initiative.

¶4. (C) On the FNL defections, van Eck doubted that Nqakula's estimate of 1,500 was accurate. He agreed that there had been some defections, but it is unclear how many were truly FNL fighters. Van Eck claimed that none of the senior FNL leadership had defected, and that there was no split in the rebel movement.
Teitelbaum